

Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About

What is the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation?

Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation is a \$30M global open call for nonprofits, social enterprises, and academic institutions partnering with governments to deploy scalable, cutting-edge AI-powered solutions on critical public service challenges with technical mentorship from experts through a dedicated Google.org Accelerator.

When is the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation?

We will accept applications beginning on February 19, 2026 until April 3, 2026 at 11:59PM PT.

What type of projects are you looking for?

We're particularly interested in proposals leveraging generative and agentic AI to help governments solve complex societal challenges across health, resilience, and economy — including public infrastructure and affordability. We will consider compelling proposals outside of these topics with strong alignment across criteria.

- **Health:** Enhance public systems so more effective healthcare services can reach all citizens, regardless of location. For example, by leveraging generative and agentic AI to create seamless “front door” access to services, improve frontline health worker capacity, or drive population-scale preventive care that ensures no community is left behind.
- **Resilience:** Empower communities to plan, respond, and recover from crises to protect people and save lives. For example, via AI-powered forecasting and response capabilities that ensure no community is surprised by a major crisis, using real-time data to transform how public servants and first responders address disasters.
- **Economy:** Expand opportunity and affordability by improving public infrastructure to ensure accessible, essential services and pathways to prosperity for all. For example, by leveraging agentic AI and predictive optimization to streamline transit networks and improve the efficiency of infrastructure resource allocation so that no opportunity is out of reach.

Out of scope: This GIC prioritizes innovations with a tangible human impact. Projects focused solely on internal back- or mid-office government operations that do not demonstrate a direct, measurable improvement in the lives of communities or the accessibility of public services are considered out of scope.

What are the key criteria for a successful application to the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation?

Impact

- **Address Critical Government Challenges:** A compelling proposal directly responds to the challenge focus areas, helping governments tackle critical barriers to the delivery of essential public services through a clear, convincing problem statement specific to the target community.

- **Human-Centered Design:** Projects must demonstrate a deep understanding of end beneficiaries, identifying how different demographics may experience the problem in nuanced ways.
- **Evidence-Based Approach:** Proposals should be backed by data, evidence, or a proven track record to demonstrate the effectiveness of the solution. New ideas require credible justifications grounded in research to explain why the solution would be successful compared to alternatives.

Innovative Use of Technology

- **AI at the Core:** Proposals should leverage generative or agentic AI applications that go beyond incremental change, accelerating high-potential solutions or enabling new ideas that address the core problems.
- **Clear Tech Application:** Projects must be able to explain the specific technology used—in both technical and simple language—and how it adds value by addressing clear needs, breaking through barriers, or reducing inefficiencies for users.
- **Responsible Innovation:** Projects using advanced technologies must align with Google's [AI Principles](#) to ensure solutions are developed safely, thoughtfully, and affirmatively.

Feasibility

- **Government partnership:** Applicants have a partnership with a government entity that clearly details each partner's role and expertise, while demonstrating that the solution can be feasibly integrated into government systems and used long-term by public servants and policymakers.
- **Vision Towards Outcomes via Metrics:** Proposals require a well-developed plan supported by specific, quantifiable, and achievable metrics that clearly define the desired results for end beneficiaries.
- **Realistic execution plan:** The proposal outlines a realistic plan for execution with clear achievable metrics, access to required data, and the technical or domain expertise needed to responsibly apply AI to the problem.

Scalability

- **Potential to Scale & Replicate:** Proposals should demonstrate how the core idea can expand beyond the initial project and be replicated across different government use cases, across government, geographic regions, or demographics.
- **Commitment to Share Best Practices:** Organizations must have a plan to share outcomes, learnings, and best practices with peers so that other organizations can learn from and replicate the results.
- **Sustainability:** Organizations must have a clear plan for how the project will continue to grow and be sustained beyond the initial period of Google.org support, with a specific focus on ensuring long-term use and technical adoption by government partners.

Can I only submit projects in the focus areas outlined?

While we are particularly interested in projects that fit in the focus areas, we are open to innovative projects that use AI to tackle public services challenges that align with our criteria. These projects can be submitted under the “other” category in the application. We will consider all projects submitted.

What will selected organizations receive?

Selected organizations may receive anywhere from \$1M up to \$3M+, and will participate in the Google.org Accelerator multi-month program with access to structured support including dedicated pro bono expertise from Google employees, technical training, and Google Cloud credits. Within the application, you may indicate the amount of funding you wish to apply for your project.

Entry & eligibility

Who is eligible?

The Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation is open to any nonprofit charity, other nonprofit organization, public or private academic or research institution, or for-profit social enterprise company with a project that has a clear and explicit social impact purpose. Your organization or your project's partner organization(s) must have a registered office in your country of residence and not be in a country excluded in the [Terms](#). Unfortunately, individuals without organizational affiliation are ineligible.

What are the Terms?

Applicants are required to agree to these [Terms](#) when applying to the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation. Once selected, organizations must agree to additional terms in order to receive funding and participate in the Google.org Accelerator. Selected organizations must also agree to the Google Cloud Platform Terms of Service to receive Cloud credits. The number of recipients, project specifics, amount of funding, and the organizations selected are at Google's sole discretion.

Can we apply if we're a for-profit business with a social impact project?

For-profit businesses that are registered or formed under the laws of one of the eligible countries may apply if their proposed project has a clear and explicit social impact purpose that aligns with Google.org's focus areas, and if to the greatest extent possible, they are willing to open source any IP created (or distributed) with the funding.

In what language should I submit my application?

All applications must be submitted in English as interviews and support provided through the Google.org Accelerator will be conducted in English. We require **at least one** fluent English speaker on your project team and strongly recommend English fluency across your core project team.

Can my organization submit more than one idea?

We encourage you to strongly consider which project best resonates with our submission criteria and your organization's strengths. However, if you have two unrelated projects that you feel would each make good candidates, please submit a separate application for each. We will review each project independently. No organization may submit more than two applications, except as described below.

What if I work for a large organization, like a university, that has many departments - can we submit multiple applications?

Large organizations like colleges and universities are permitted to submit multiple applications. We ask that each Project Manager submit only one proposal. Please note, the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation is not an opportunity to support research proposals. We are looking for

projects with clear visions and action plans to develop technology that will be applied to impact a specific set of end beneficiaries.

Google Cloud Credits

Recipients may receive up to \$200,000 in Google Cloud credits. Credit disbursement is subject to eligibility review by Google, and will be determined based on project needs (see [Supplemental Terms and Conditions for the Google Cloud Credits Program](#)).

Is use of Google products required to be selected?

Use of Google products in your proposal is not required to be selected. Google has built several products that may be helpful to organizations building AI-powered solutions to drive government innovation. While not required, we encourage applicants to assess these solutions for use in their projects where helpful and fit for purpose. Please note that the examples below are not exhaustive:

- [Gemini Enterprise](#) is an advanced agentic platform that brings together the best of Google AI (including Vertex AI, agentic workflows, NotebookLM, and more) for organizations to access ready-to-use agents and over 200 AI models from Google and our ecosystem partners. Gemini enables autonomous agentic workflows that could drive efficiency while scaling innovative, secure solutions that can transform the “digital front door” to citizen-facing services.
- [Google Earth AI](#) is a geospatial intelligence suite combining Earth AI reasoning with tools like AlphaEarth (virtual satellite embeddings), WeatherNext 2 (probabilistic ensemble forecasting), Open Buildings Dataset, and Population Dynamics Foundation Model (PFDM). These tools could support disaster preparedness through anticipatory action and rapid response by predicting population movement and identifying vulnerable structures.
- [Roads Management Insights \(RMI\)](#) can access, analyze, and monitor accumulated and real-time road data to improve safety, efficiency, and sustainability of road networks and public utilities. By identifying critical maintenance needs before they become costly emergencies, RMI could support public infrastructure efficiencies that increase mobility and long-term affordability for citizens.

Applying with Partners

Can my organization submit a joint application with another organization?

We welcome and encourage collaboration – especially between technical and social sector experts in the form of partnerships and coalitions. The application allows you to specify partners who will be critical to your work, and we ask joint proposals to select one organization to be the applicant of record and main point of contact. For the GIC: AI for Government Innovation, it is required for applicants to have a proof of partnership with a government organization. For the applicant of record, we recommend choosing an organization within your partnership that has a registered office that meets the eligibility criteria listed in the [Terms](#).

How can I keep the rest of my partners informed throughout the process?

The applicant will be the main point of contact. Whenever you receive information and next steps, we suggest forwarding directly to your partners. If your organization is asked to provide additional information and/or attend an interview, you may include representatives from your partner organization to respond.

How will my coalition or joint partnership receive funding?

If your application is selected to receive funding, the applicant organization will be the sole recipient of funding, but it may sub-fund or subcontract with other organizations to complete the proposed project as long as all organizations comply with the terms of the funding agreement.

How do you define “government partners?”

For the purposes of this open call, “government partner” is defined as an organization, agency, or instrumentality established, owned, or controlled by federal, state, or local governments to perform public functions or manage public services.

What about international or intergovernmental organizations?

Proposals may be submitted in partnership with an international or intergovernmental organization. However, there must be a demonstrable path toward utilization by a national, state/provincial, or local government entity.

What if I don’t have a government partnership secured yet?

Government buy-in to proposed solutions is an important consideration for this open call. While not required at the point of application submission, all organizations who progress to final stages of the selection process will need to provide proof of a partnership with a government entity (e.g. letter of support or MOU).

Confidential information / IP**Will details of the project idea we submit be kept confidential?**

No. Google.org will not treat your application as confidential or proprietary, and the details of your project may be shared with internal or external experts to evaluate your proposal: please do not submit any proprietary or confidential information in your application. If your organization is selected to receive Google.org support, a summary for your project may be made available to the public on the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Government Innovation website and/or other Google channels.

Who owns the intellectual property created by selected organizations?

We believe that projects supported by Google.org funding should be able to benefit everyone. If your organization is selected to receive Google.org support, we will require, to the extent possible, any intellectual property created (or distributed) with support from Google.org funding be made available to the public for free under a permissive open source license. Please refer to the [Terms](#).

Project info**What do you mean when you say “project”?**

A project is your organization’s proposed idea and implementation plan for how you will use technology to address a social impact problem. If selected as a recipient, Google.org will be supporting the implementation of this project – so we need to know exactly how funding and support will help to realize your plan.

Can the project be in the idea stage? Does this have to be a new idea for my organization?

Yes – we’re happy to consider early-stage ideas with a clear and feasible plan for implementation that will benefit society, and a clear path toward a prototype by the end of the multi-month Google.org Accelerator. Ideas need not be brand new – in fact, they may already be a work in progress. In all cases, we would like to hear exactly how funding and participation in the Google.org Accelerator will change the trajectory of your progress toward implementation, scale, and impact.

If another organization is currently implementing a similar concept, can we still submit the idea?

Yes, but please note that projects will be evaluated in part on their impactful approach and potential to scale. Please tell us how and why your implementation is impactful for the community, why your organization is uniquely suited to implement the concept in a way that will be more successful, or how you plan to partner with other organizations to achieve success.

Over what time period should the funds be spent?

While we’re looking for projects that can achieve prototype stage within 6 months and have tangible and impact outcomes over the first 12 months, funding can be spent over the course of 36 months.

How does Google define responsible AI practices?

See Google’s [Responsible AI Practices](#) for practical guidance.

The Google.org Accelerator

How does the Google.org Accelerator program fit into this open call?

Selected organizations will participate in the multi-month [Google.org](#) Accelerator, and receive anywhere from \$1M up to \$3M+ in funding to build projects that enable governments with AI and technology to better deliver essential services and support communities.

What is the Google.org Accelerator program?

The Google.org Accelerator is a multi-month program to advance the AI projects of the selected global cohort of organizations. Participants receive pro bono support from Google employees, technical training, and optional Google Cloud credits to build with powerful tools like Vertex AI and Gemini. The program concludes with a Demo Day where teams present their prototypes to an audience of government stakeholders and civic technology leaders to foster opportunities for adoption and collaboration.

How does funding fit into the Google.org Accelerator program?

Funding can be used for up to 36 months to support prototype development during the Accelerator, and for launching and scaling the product after completing the program.

When and where does the Google.org Accelerator program take place?

There will be a mix of virtual/online programming and in-person moments, with at least two key in-person gatherings. Specific locations will be shared with selected organizations. The official programming is planned to commence in Fall 2026.

What does the Google.org Accelerator programming include?

The Google.org Accelerator is an immersive program providing a suite of resources to ensure each project's success. Participating organizations receive hands-on support from a dedicated Google pro bono squad, including an AI Coach and a Project Success Manager, complemented by tailored mentorship from Google's experts alongside peer learning. The program enables teams to sharpen their strategy through expert-led workshops on the full product lifecycle and build with the best of Google's technology, backed by Google Cloud credits for tools like Vertex AI and Gemini.

Component	Description
Project Success Manager	Dedicated Google program manager to help navigate the Accelerator, manage project milestones, and connect you with the resources needed for your success.
AI Coach	Dedicated technical advising from Google engineers, offering guidance on AI strategy and implementation throughout the program to help build or scale your solution.
Trainings: AI Product Lifecycle	Scaled virtual training to provide tailored content that advances the project.
1:1 Mentorship	1:1 sessions with mentors on specific topics to provide hands-on guidance on a one-off basis or in a deeper engagement based on organizations' needs.
Access to Google Cloud credits	Organizations that meet specific eligibility criteria may receive credits to build with the best of Google Cloud Platform's AI & ML tools, including Vertex AI and Gemini.
Peer Learning	Accelerator participants to share best practices & amplify their work with other participating organizations and leaders.

Who should attend the Google.org Accelerator programming from my team?

Participants must include at least one Decision Maker and one Technical Project Lead from each organization, committing ~4 hours per week. Other roles (e.g. Data owner, Prompt Engineers, UX leads) may be invited to virtually attend applicable technical training throughout the course of the program.

How will government partners be involved?

- **Social Impact Organizations** are the core participant as the builders of the technical solution. Orgs should attend all programming and lead project development.
- **Government Partners** are users of the solution and should work closely with the organization throughout the program to provide feedback and align on timely deployment. Government partners will be invited to key milestones including the final Demo Day.

Participating organizations and their government partners are expected to collaborate throughout the program to ensure the prototype is positioned for successful implementation.

What is the approximate time commitment as a participant?

Organizations can expect to commit around ~4 hours per week to the Accelerator program, although this may vary week to week (e.g. the two in-person events will be full-time for 2-3 days each).

What is the overall schedule for the Google.org Accelerator?

- **September 2026 - In-Person Kickoff:** Organization will engage with the cohort and connect with the Googler volunteers who will provide dedicated support and delve into the details of the Accelerator.
- **Product Build and Development:** Organizations and their pro bono support squad will work through product definition, strategy, development, and testing together as they prepare a demonstrable prototype for Demo Day.
- **December 2026 - In-Person Demo Day:** The program culminates with Demo Day, where organizations demonstrate their prototypes to a curated audience of government stakeholders and civic technology leaders to foster opportunities for adoption and collaboration.

Process**Can I get a copy of the application questions before I fill out the application?**

Yes, you can find a PDF copy of the [application questions here](#).

Can we include appendices or additional information to the application?

We are not able to accept any attachments beyond those linked as additional materials in the application form.

Can I save a draft of my application on the site if I want to edit it later?

Yes. Applications can be saved for later completion in the platform, though it's helpful to remember to press 'Save' periodically. Please note that there is a limit of one user and device at a time per account, so it may help to draft your responses in a separate document first, and only complete the application form once your entire application is ready for submission.

How do I make sure my application is successfully submitted?

Upon successful submission, you'll receive a confirmation message over email.

I've submitted my application. What do I do now?

That's great news – thank you for applying. No further action is required. We'll reach out if we require any additional information, and will notify the selected organizations when decisions have been made.

What should I do if I want to change parts of my submitted application?

If you've already submitted your application, please email us at gic-aigov@google.com and we will help edit your submission on the back-end.

Do I need a Google account to apply?

No, you don't need a Google account.

Will every single application be reviewed?

Yes, we will review all eligible applications received.

What if I still have questions after reading the FAQs?

Please contact us at gic-aigov@google.com